

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, as amended, in view of the following remarks.

The rejection of Claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kurosawa et al (U.S. 2004/0132243) in view of Itatani et al (U.S. 6,777,159) is respectfully traversed.

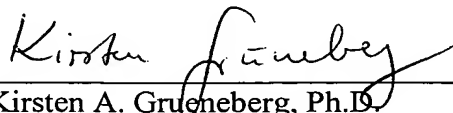
Kurosawa et al was filed on the same day as the present application, on October 28, 2003, and thus **does not qualify as prior art**.

Therefore, the rejection of Claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kurosawa et al (U.S. 2004/0132243) in view of Itatani et al (U.S. 6,777,159) should be withdrawn.

This application presents allowable subject matter, and the Examiner is kindly requested to pass it to issue. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the claims or otherwise wish to discuss this case, he is kindly invited to contact Applicants' below-signed representative, who would be happy to provide any assistance deemed necessary in speeding this application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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